A

MEMORIAL

Delivered to His

MAJESTY

(July 21/31 1664)

from the

Lord *VAN-GOGH*,

Ambaſſador from the STATES GENERAL of the UNITED PROVINCES.

Tranſlated into Engliſh.

With the

ANSVVER

which His

Sacred Majeſty

returned thereunto.

LONDON,
Printed by *J. G.* for *R. Royſton*, Book-ſeller to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, 1664.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO HIS *MAJESTY*.

SIR,

THE under-written Ambassador of the States General of the United *Netherlands*, Your good friends and Allies, having had the honor of several Audiences with Your *Majesty*, and therein made known to You such Orders as he hath from time to time received from his Masters upon occasion of, and concerning divers affairs, and especially these following: To wit,

Seeing it is understood and perceived, that Vessels of War are fitting and preparing on both sides, which if they go forth to Sea and meet there together, might by some misunderstanding fall foul upon one another; Your *Majesty* would therefore be pleased to keep back Your Fleet, and not suffer it to go to Sea, as their Lordships offer on their part to do; the whole intent and design tending one-

ly to the ſafety of both parties, and the prevention of the foreſaid ſiniſter encounters.

Moreover, Whereas their Lordſhips have been informed, that Captain *Holmes* with the Veſſels under his Command hath now again (as heretofore) done very great and enormous injuries to the *Netherlandiſh* Company of the *Weſt-Indies*, by taking divers of their Veſſels upon the Coaſt of *Africk*, as alſo by making himſelf Maſter of ſome places and Forts belonging unto them, and namely amongſt others of *Capo Verde*, &c. which is directly contrary, not onely to the Treaty laſt concluded between Your *Majeſty* and the States of the United Provinces, but alſo to mutual Amity and good neighbourhood: The ſaid Ambaſſador did therefore in the name of his Superiors demand reſtitution of the ſame, and that reparation might be made of the damages and intereſts, which the ſaid Company and other Subjects of their Lordſhips, who were concerned, have ſuffered thereby; as alſo that the like proceedings and violences might be prevented for the future by an expreſs Order.

In the third place, That their Lordſhips being from day to day confirmed by certain intelligence coming from that Coaſt, that the foreſaid action of Captain *Holmes* had not onely been effected in the manner above ſpecified, but alſo that he was intended to carry on his deſign further, by making incurſions and ſeizing upon all the Coaſt, and that for his better ſucceſs therein, he expected a notable ſupply of Ships from *England*; as the whole matter may be proved by the Teſtimony and Depoſitions of credible perſons newly come from thence: Which actions being without right, reaſon and equity, and which conſequently cannot be endured, nor looked upon with a good eye, Your *Majeſty* was entreated that it might be Your good Pleaſure to command as well the ſaid Captain *Holmes*, as others who

were

were in that engagement, or are held to have been employed therein, not only to reſtore the foreſaid Forts and Veſſels ſo taken, and to repair the damages thereby ſuffered (as reaſon requires) but alſo that the Ships which by report are now ready to ſet Sail, or which may be fitting for that end, may by Your *Majeſties* expreſs Command be prohibited and charged not to do or cauſe any other injury or damage to the ſaid Company, or to any other the Subjects of the United Provinces.

Fourthly, Foraſmuch as the poor and affli cted Reformed Churches in the Valleys of *Piedmont* have repreſented, that after the agreement made with his Royal Highneſs the Duke of *Savoy* ſome while ſince, they are again overwhelmed & ruined by exactions & charges required of them to defray the expences of the Army which the ſaid Duke had commanded againſt them, which charges amounted to ſo high a ſum, that it was impoſſible for them to make it up, for the reaſons more at large alledged in their Remonſtrance; Therefore they have deſired the interceſsion of the States General with Your *Majeſty*, that Your Ambaſſador in the Court of *France* may have order to procure from his Moſt Chriſtian *Majeſty* (as being Mediator between his ſaid Royal Highneſs and them) as much favour and comfort to thoſe poor afflicted Churches as can poſſibly by any means be obtained.

And finally, conſidering that the Veſſels coming from the United Provinces into the Rivers, Streams and Roads of this Kingdom, are ſtopped there under pretence that there be Perſons and Commodities on board which come from places infected with the Plague, or at leaſt ſuſpected to be ſo, by which means the freedom of Trade and Paſſage is obſtructed and diſturbed, to the great prejudice of the inhabitants of both Nations: The ſaid Ambaſſador therefore inſiſted thereupon, that the ſame might be remedied,

or at leaſt that the ſtrictneſs of thoſe Orders might be mitigated in ſuch meaſure as in reaſon ſhall be found convenient; And that the rather, becauſe, by the mercy of God, all the Provinces in general are not infected with the Contagion.

To all that is above ſaid, Your *Majeſty* hath been pleaſed to anſwer in effect, to wit, upon the firſt point, touching keeping of the Fleet from going to Sea, That the numbers which were fitted and prepared on Your *Majeſties* ſide being no way extraordinary, but onely for common and cuſtomary uſe, and without deſign of bringing any damage or inconvenience upon the inhabitants of the United Provinces, the ſaid Veſſels could not be kept from going to Sea, becauſe Your *Majeſties* Honour was engaged therein; Nevertheleſs that You would give ſuch Orders to the chief Commander of Your ſaid Fleet, that their Lordſhips ſhall have no cauſe to apprehend any ſiniſter encounters from it.

As to the ſecond, touching the action of Captain *Holmes*, Your *Majeſty* thought good to anſwer thereunto, That You had received no information of it, and that having given no Order for his ſo doing, You would cauſe reparation to be made, if the matter proved to be true, and that the ſaid Captain *Holmes* ſhould be puniſhed according as the caſe ſhould require: Nevertheleſs adding thereunto afterwards at another Audience, that the *Weſt-India* Company had likewiſe done much damage to Your *Majeſties* Subjects upon the ſaid Coaſt, pretending to be Maſters thereof to themſelves alone; which thing ought to be conſidered alſo in its proper ſeaſon, judging it unreaſonable and unjuſt that the Trade of the *Engliſh* upon that Coaſt ſhould continually be diſturbed and hindred.

And as to the third, Your *Majeſty* was pleaſed to ſay

as

as before, That You had received no information of *Holmes* his actions in thoſe parts; and for ſo much as concerned the Ships which are ready to ſet Sail towards the Coaſt of *Africk*, that they were not in a condition to make any attempt there, being onely Merchant-men, unto which there was added but one Man of War for their Convoy.

For what regards the poor *Piemontoies*, That You were ſenſibly touched with the miſerable condition of thoſe Churches and People, and for that reaſon Your *Majeſty* had already given Order to Your Ambaſſador in *France* to contribute unto their relief and comfort in Your name; But foraſmuch as at preſent there occurr ſome new difficulties concerning the ſaid Churches, Your *Majeſty* would adviſe more particularly thereupon.

And laſtly, concerning the Merchants Ships which come from the United Provinces into this Kingdom, and are ſtopped without permiſsion to Land any where, becauſe they are ſuſpected to come from ſome place infected with the Sickneſs, there being no diſtinction made between Provinces and Cities really afflicted with the ſaid Contagion, & thoſe which are not ſo at all; That Your *Majeſty* having an extraordinary apprehenſion of that diſeaſe, had great reaſon to uſe all poſsible precaution againſt it; Notwithſtanding, that the buſineſs ſhould alſo be thought upon more fully.

All which Points aboveſaid having been repeated by the ſaid Ambaſſador at his laſt Audience, and inſtance thereupon made, that according to their Lordſhips deſires Your *Majeſty* would be pleaſed to explain Your Self in Writing, to put the minds of his Superiors out of perplexity and diſquiet; and Your *Majeſty* having to that purpoſe

deſired,

desired, that all should be comprized in a *Memorial* for an Answer to be given thereunto in Writing: The said *Memorial* (May it please Your *Majesty*) is here most humbly presented, with like prayer, that such Order may be taken therein, as that by a favorable answer (which the said Ambassador expects from Your *Majesty*) he may be enabled to give his Masters content.

M. Van-Gogh.

From *Chelsey*,
July $\frac{21}{31}$ 1664.

His

HIS *MAJESTIES ANSWER* to the fore-going *MEMORIAL.*

THe Ambaſſador of the United Provinces having ſo particularly ſet down the Anſwers he received from Us in his ſeveral Audiences to his particular demands; Albeit Wee think he may well acquieſce with the ſame, yet ſince he hath thought fit by his Memorial to deſire an Anſwer in writing, Wee are very well pleaſed to ſatisfie him herein, that the States General may ſee the ſincerity of Our proceedings towards them.

Concerning the preparations and proviſion of Veſſels of War, it is notoriouſly known, that in the beginning of this year Wee gave order for the providing a leſs guard of Ships for the Summer then hath been ſet out any year ſince Our happy Reſtoration for that ſeaſon, believing Our Self to be in ſo good Intelligence with all Our Neighbours, that Wee might well ſave that charge; When Our Parliament, upon the Cry of the whole Nation, with ſome earneſtneſs preſſed Us to take an extraordinary way to repair Our People for the many and dayly injuries they ſuſtained from the Subjects of the United Provinces by depredations at Sea, in other places as well as in the *Eaſt-Indies*, in which there were ſome circumſtances of that

preſumption, in declaring their Dominion,& inhibiting of Commerce againſt the Law of Nations, as all Princes are equally concerned therein with Us; Wee made no other anſwer to Our Parliament, then that Wee made no doubt but that Our good Allies, the States of the United Provinces, to whom in truth the Injuries ſuſtained could not reaſonably (Wee thought) be imputed, would cauſe Juſtice to be done; in order to which, Wee would appoint Our Miniſter reſiding there to make a Repreſentation and Complaint. For which temper and moderation (when, it may be, another Reſolution, conſidering the nature of the Provocations, would have been more agreeable to the deſires of Our Parliament) Wee expected the thanks of Our good Neighbours; when on the contrary they no ſooner received advice of this anſwer returned by Us, then in a very extraordinary manner they gave direction for the preſent ſetting out of a very great number of Ships of War, without any other viſible cauſe then to manifeſt to the World how much they defied Us and Our Parliament. Upon all which, as Wee ſhould have been thought to have had very little foreſight for our Honour or Intereſt, if Wee had not prepared a conſiderable Fleet for Our defence, (the charge and expence whereof Wee would have been very glad to have prevented) ſo the ſame being prepared, it will be thought a very ſtrange Propoſition, that it be ſtill kept within the Ports; And it will be found by their demeanour, that their Inſtructions are not to do any injury to Our

Neighbours and Friends, but to defend Our Self, Our Dominions, and Our Subjects from receiving injuries from Our Enemies. Nor in truth can Wee believe or imagine that the United Provinces (from whom Wee have deserved well, and with whom Wee are ready to maintain a fast Friendship, to which many other considerations, besides that great one of the Protestant Religion, should dispose both of Us) will deny to doe Us Justice upon Our reasonable demands, or that they will ever sacrifice the Peace of their Country for the support of the miscarriages of particular Persons, or a particular Company, who Wee find by experience more considers their own Profit and Interest then the Honour or Safety of the Government under which they live ; which the States General will well weigh and consider.

As Wee did with great frankness, and as an everlasting manifestation of Our affection and kindness, conclude the late Treaty with the United Provinces, by which many very memorable discourtesies and injuries to Our Self and Our People, and particularly that of *Amboyna*, were put in oblivion ; so We have most exactly observed every Article on Our part, and have no sooner been moved in any particular in which the Subjects of the United Provinces have been grieved, then Wee have given order for their redress, in the most expedite way, without putting them to those formalities which are usual in Courts of Justice :

Whereas Wee are very ſorry to ſay, that upon all the Complaints made at the *Hague* by Our Miniſter, in which the matter of Fact hath been moſt notorious and convincing, and the Right moſt apparent, redreſs hath not been given to any one, and ſuch delays uſed in all, as are upon the matter and in the conſequence of it a plain denial of Juſtice, which brings every day great complaints to Us from Our Subjects of all parts: Notwithſtanding all which, Wee have not to this day granted one Letter of Mart upon the Subjects of the United Provinces.

Concerning Captain *Holmes*, Wee have with great ſincerity aſſured the Ambaſſador that he had no Commiſsion to take *Capo Verde*, nor any other place belonging to the *Dutch*, or to do any act of hoſtility upon any of the Subjects of the United Provinces, that was not for the defence of Our Subjects and their Trade into thoſe parts: And Wee cannot but expect, that this Our free Declaration ſhould find more credit with Our Allies then any Informations or Examinations of Mariners and Seamen, who ſeldom know what they inform. Wee expect the ſaid Captain *Holmes* his arrival here every day, and will then, upon due enquiry into all that he hath done, determine what is juſt. The Ships at preſent deſigned for thoſe parts are Ships of Trade, and have neither power nor will to wrong the Subjects of the United Provinces. But Wee are very heartily ſorry to hear

not from general rumour, or the looſe diſcourſes of hear-ſays, but from the pregnant Evidence and full information of Our Governour of Our Fort of *Cormantine*, That about the end of *January* laſt, the Commanders of the Ships belonging to the *Dutch Weſt-India* Company, after many aſſaults upon Our Merchants Ships in thoſe Seas, and forbidding and reſtraining them from Trade, did ſtir up and hire the King of *Fantine* to aſſault & ſurprize that Our Caſtle of *Cormantine*, and to put the ſame into their hands for the price of ſixty *Bendys*, whereof one half was payd down by the ſaid *Dutch* Commanders, with this condition likewiſe, that the ſaid Natives ſhould enjoy to themſelves all the plunder of that Our ſaid Caſtle. In purſuance of which infamous Contract, and the better to enable them to perform the ſame, the *Dutch* Commanders ſupplied the ſaid King of *Fantine* with a good quantity of Muskets, Powder and Cartages; whereof Our Commander having notice, by the bleſsing of God ſurprized the ſame: which it may be is one of thoſe Acts of Hoſtility whereof mention is made in this Memorial, Wee having no notice of any other. Two Men of War, belonging to the *Dutch* Company, came from the *Mina* to *Cape Coaſt* to attend this enterprize at the time appointed, and accordingly the King of *Fantine* upon the fifth day of *February* laſt came with five hundred men in hope to have ſurprized Our Caſtle; but finding himſelf diſcovered, and forced to retire with ſome loſs;

he advanced again the next day with a Body of three thouſand men, and continued a ſharp fight with Our men for the ſpace of four hours, after which time he was beaten off with great loſs, and hath ſince with ſhame and ſorrow acknowledged his breach of faith towards Us, and declared the motives and Contract aforeſaid; the *Dutch* Ships at the ſame time driving a ſmall Ship belonging to Our Merchants under the command of Captain *Borthwick* into Our Port of *Inaſhange*, anchored by him, hindred all the Canoes from coming on board him, and took his Boat and five men, which they would not reſtore till they found their other enterprize had miſcarried. Wee cannot in any degree doubt that the States of the United Provinces will manifeſt their deteſtation of this perfidious deſign, and cauſe exemplary Juſtice to be done upon the Perſons guilty of it, which Wee expect and require; and that inſtead of ſending Ships of War to juſtifie theſe unwarrantable and ſcandalous proceedings, (which would be attended with ill effects, and would inſenſibly produce a War between the two Nations, which Wee deſire to prevent,) their Wiſdoms will reprehend and warn their *Weſt-India* Company, that they hereafter forbear thoſe outrages, and that they do not preſume under the ſtyle of Merchants to uſurp the Prerogative of Princes, and aſſume ſuch a Dominion to themſelves as, if it were in truth veſted in them, would not warrant them to inhibit Traffique and Commerce with their Neighbours, but

muſt incenſe all Chriſtian Princes againſt their preſumption.

Concerning the Reformed Churches in the valleys of *Piedmont*, towards whom Wee have expreſſed Our compaſsion and charity in a contribution ſince Our happy Reſtoration, as Wee will be always ready to relieve and protect the afflicted ſtate of any Proteſtant Churches to Our Power; Wee being not fully informed of their condition, or the grounds of their late ſufferings, know not what more to do, then to deſire the Moſt Chriſtian King to uſe his mediation, which Wee doubt not but he will do upon the deſire of Our Ambaſſador in Our name, and according to Our directions.

Wee are exceedingly afflicted for thoſe places within the Dominions of the United Provinces which are at preſent infected with the Plague, and do heartily pray to God that he will ſpeedily withdraw that his Viſitation from them, and in the mean time do in a great degree ſuffer with them, by the ſuſpending that Traffique and Commerce which is ſo much for the good of both Nations: But it cannot be expected or deſired that Wee will neglect or decline that provident care of Our People which is due to them, in uſing all poſsible means to preſerve them from that Contagion, which cannot be done without ſuch reſtraints, which are for the preſent with great loſs and damage

A 515 5

both People, and to which Wee hope the goodneſs of God will ſhortly put a period, by making the correſpondence as ſafe and wholſome as it hath been, and reſtoring perfect health to the places now infected, as well as to their Neighbours, who cannot but in a degree ſuffer with them, though they are not under the ſame calamity.

Wee having now complyed with the Ambaſſadors deſires in giving this particular Anſwer in writing to his Memorial, and to all that he hath propoſed to Us, Wee make no queſtion but he will faithfully tranſmit the ſame to Our good Friends and Allies the United Provinces; and Wee deſire him the ſaid Ambaſſador to aſſure them, that Wee are ſo firmly reſolved to maintain a firm Amity and Friendſhip with them, that a War (by the bleſsing of God) cannot fall out between Us, except they depart from all rules of Juſtice, and ſuffer their Subjects to involve them in a War to ſupport the wrong they do their Neighbours againſt all Right; which Wee are moſt confident they will never be induced to do, and which miſchief (of which no man can foreſee the end) their great Wiſdoms will prevent.

CHARLES R.

By his Majeſties Command.

9560